

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,443.31
% change	-0.10%
DS30 Index	2,116.15
% change	-0.36%
DSES Index	1,188.72
% change	-0.13%
Turnover (BDT mn)	9,715.27
Turnover (USD mn)	79.68
% change	-22.13%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	45,565.23
% change	0.32%
S&P 500	6,481.40
% change	0.24%
Nikkei 225	42,337.00
% change	-0.14%
FTSE 100	9,255.50
% change	-0.11%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	121.82	121.93
EUR	141.53	141.67
GBP	163.90	164.08
INR	1.39	1.39

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
27-Aug-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.99
26-Aug-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.99

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	67.44	1.11%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,395.84	0.09%
Cotton, USD/lb.	66.68	-0.04%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, was down by 0.10% on the last trading day, closing at 5,443.31 points.
- The daily turnover decreased by 22.13% on the last trading day.

Global Market

- The majority of the global indices showed mixed performance on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 0.32%, the S&P 500 rose by 0.24%, and the FTSE 100 fell by 0.11%.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, fell by 0.14% on the last trading day.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of BDT appreciated against the USD, EUR, and INR, and depreciated against the GBP.
- The average overnight rate was 9.99%, standing between 9.70% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures increased by 1.11%, the price of gold spot increased by 0.09% and the price of cotton decreased by 0.04% on the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

More than a dozen major projects overspend lifespan, needing cure

- ◆ Thirteen large development projects with an aggregate cost of BDT 924.76 billion have spent over five years against their approved lifespans, warranting a government review soon for remedies.
- ◆ Official statistics show only one-third financial progress has been made in the projects although their entire sanctioned tenures have expired.
- ◆ Out of the total estimated cost, ministries and divisions managed to spend BDT 308.29 billion, which accounts for only 33.34% of the funds, according to the document of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).
- ◆ With an average 18 months now left after time extension to complete the schemes, requiring to spend BDT 616.46 billion, the IMED of the Planning Ministry has tagged these projects as 'Critical' and placed them under special monitoring for cure, officials said.
- ◆ As part of its special monitoring, IMED recently hosted a meeting with project directors (PDs) of all 13 schemes to identify implementation bottlenecks and chart solutions to accelerate progress.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/more-than-a-dozen-major-projects-overspend-lifespan-needing-cure-1756317946>

Ctg port to have 4 terminal projects under PPP model

- ◆ The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is set to implement, upgrade, and operate four major terminal projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, officials say, aiming to elevate the port to international standards and enhance its capacity for future growth.
- ◆ On August 10, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun confirmed that international tendering processes for several Chattogram port terminals are underway.
- ◆ We intend to appoint at least the first operator at the New-mooring Container Terminal (NCT), Laldia Container Terminal, and Bay Terminal by the end of December this year.
- ◆ The initiatives follow earlier efforts to modernise the port.
- ◆ On May 14, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus visited Chattogram port, highlighting plans to engage leading global port operators.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ctg-port-to-have-4-terminal-projects-under-ppp-model-1756317663>

Govt to adopt multimodal transport plan

- ◆ The government is moving away from scattered projects and will adopt an integrated multimodal transport plan to ensure cost and time-efficient transport, said Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the Road Transport and Bridges ministry.

- ◆ By mapping existing roads, railways, waterways, and air routes along with data on goods and passenger movement, we can identify infrastructure gaps, prioritise investments, and determine the most efficient transport modes.
- ◆ The adviser made the remarks at a virtual event on the "4th State of Investment Climate Bangladesh", organised by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).
- ◆ He said the first draft of the plan will be ready next month.
- ◆ The move came over a decade after the government formulated the National Integrated Multimodal Transport Policy in 2013 for developing an integrated transport network involving road, rail, and waterways, which remained largely unimplemented.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-adopt-multimodal-transport-plan-3972196>

Cashless economy should benefit all, not create 'incomeless' society: Debapriya

- ◆ A cashless economy should not transform into an incomeless economy; rather, it should act as a catalyst to generate income for those outside formal employment, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
- ◆ He made the remark while delivering the keynote speech at the Cashless Bangladesh Summit 2025, jointly organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and Mastercard at the Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka today.
- ◆ Bhattacharya stressed that Bangladesh must pursue a system-wide and integrated approach to digital transformation, addressing both technological and social barriers.
- ◆ He suggested policy incentives such as tax rebates, Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) waivers for small vendors, and direct incentives for micro-merchants to promote digital transactions.
- ◆ Bhattacharya underscored the need to diversify the payment ecosystem by expanding mobile financial services (MFS) beyond cash-in/cash-out operations, including their acceptance in roadside shops outside Dhaka and in informal sectors such as readymade garment salary payments.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cashless-economy-should-benefit-all-not-create-incomeless-society-debapriya-3972031>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Digital transactions surge, but cash is still king: experts

- ◆ Bangladesh has made notable progress in digital financial transactions but remains far from becoming a cashless economy, experts said, calling for stronger policy support, improved infrastructure, and wider adoption to reduce reliance on physical currency.
- ◆ A cashless economy enhances efficiency, economic formalisation, financial inclusion, reduces costs, and improves global integration, according to Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
- ◆ He made the remarks while delivering a keynote titled Regulatory Reforms & Policy Roadmap for a Cashless Bangladesh at the Cashless Bangladesh Summit 2025, jointly organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and Mastercard at the Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.
- ◆ Bhattacharya highlighted that digital transactions promote transparency, curb corruption, expand the tax base, and offer citizens greater convenience and security.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/digital-transactions-surge-cash-still-king-experts-3972411>

23% bankers have enough knowledge of forensic audit

- ◆ Experts at a roundtable called for institutionalising forensic audit, as only 23% of officials in the internal audit and credit recovery department of commercial banks claimed to have enough knowledge of the concept in a study.
- ◆ The study titled "Institutionalising forensic audit in banks in Bangladesh" also found that 48% of the respondents knew of forensic audit to some extent.
- ◆ The findings of the study were unveiled at the discussion organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) at the BIBM auditorium in the capital.
- ◆ A total of 23% of the respondents merely heard about the concept, and 6% knew nothing about it.
- ◆ Besides, 45% of the respondents said their banks had never conducted a forensic audit, while 39% confirmed such audits had taken place.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/23pc-bankers-have-enough-knowledge-of-forensic-audit-1756318009>

Textile

BGMEA opposes providing REX facility to BGBA

- ◆ The country's apparel makers have urged the government not to provide the existing Registered Exporter (REX) facility to Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) as such buying houses are not directly involved in production and exporting activities, sources said.
- ◆ According to them, if the REX facility is given to the BGBA, it would not only create a conflict of interest, but also cause an unnecessary threat to the country's export sector.

- ◆ The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) made the appeal recently in a letter to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), said an official source.
- ◆ In the letter, the BGMEA, apex trade body of the country's apparel sector, also raised some arguments against providing such REX facility to the apparel buying houses.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bgmea-opposes-providing-rex-facility-to-bgba-1756318065>

Capital Market

Low-paid-up firm's shares surge amid 22% drop in DSE turnover

- ◆ The DSEX slipped 6 points to close at 5,543, while the blue-chip DS30 index fell 8 points to 2,116, and the Shariah index dropped 2 points to 1,189.
- ◆ The premier index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSEX) extended its losing streak for the second consecutive session on 27 August, as cautious investors booked profits and shifted to selective stocks, mainly low-paid-up, undervalued, and promising ones.
- ◆ Shares of several poorly performing, non-compliant, or non-operational companies surged sharply without any disclosed reason.
- ◆ Regent Textile Mills and Padma Islami Life Insurance gained 10% each, Safko Spinning advanced 9.86%, New Line Clothings rose 8.93%, and Nurani Dyeing increased 8.70%.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/low-paid-firms-shares-surge-amid-22-drop-dse-turnover-1222286>

Regulator to probe use of BEXIMCO bond proceeds

- ◆ The securities regulator has formed probe committees to inquire into the utilisation of funds raised by BEXIMCO through bonds in 2021 and 2024.
- ◆ The company raised BDT 30 billion in 2021, issuing Beximco Green Sukuk bonds. The bond proceeds were meant for solar projects, Teesta Solar and Korotoa Solar, to produce electricity from renewable energy and transmit it to the national grid.
- ◆ In 2024, the conglomerate collected funds worth BDT 15 billion through IFIC Guaranteed Sreepur Township Zero Coupon Bond to invest in real estate.
- ◆ Md. Abul Kalam, spokesperson of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), said the securities regulator earlier launched a probe into the approval process of the bonds.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regulator-to-probe-use-of-beximco-bond-proceeds-1756315677>

Islami Bank posts profit despite regulatory clampdown, surging NPLs

- ◆ Islami Bank reported a profit of BDT 1.09 billion for 2024 even after a 68% year-on-year increase in provision in the year for non-performing loans (NPLs) under a strict regulatory measure by the central bank.
- ◆ The lender had to reveal its actual status regarding the amount of loans that had turned sour to follow the newly enforced stringent NPL policy.
- ◆ Hence, its NPLs increased to BDT 328.17 billion in December last year from only BDT 71.24 billion six months ago and again surged to BDT 476.18 billion by March this year.
- ◆ Islami Bank witnessed its provisions go up to more than BDT 10 billion in 2024.
- ◆ Higher provisioning and payment on deposits led to an 83% year-on-year fall in profit in 2024, according to the earnings disclosure by the bank on Wednesday.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/islami-bank-posts-profit-despite-regulatory-clampdown-surging-npls-1756315651>